

HOUSE BILL 641

J1

(2lr1898)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Health and Government Operations/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs* —

Introduced by **Delegates Nathan–Pulliam, Branch, Braveboy, Burns, Costa, Elliott, Gaines, Gutierrez, Howard, Hubbard, Ivey, Jones, Kipke, Krebs, Morhaim, Murphy, Oaks, B. Robinson, Tarrant, ~~and V. Turner~~ V. Turner, Lee, Pena–Melnik, Kach, Reznik, A. Kelly, and Cullison**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C Viruses – Public Awareness, Treatment, and**
3 **Outreach**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, as funds
5 are available, to conduct a certain needs assessment, initiate a certain
6 statewide public awareness campaign, solicit certain funding, and review and
7 recommend certain initiatives related to the hepatitis B virus; requiring the
8 Department, as funds are available, to coordinate with the Maryland Office of
9 Minority Health and Health Disparities to ~~activate~~ develop certain hepatitis B
10 virus and hepatitis C virus plans; requiring the Department, as funds are
11 available, to develop a certain plan and certain recommendations and to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 collaborate with the Maryland Insurance Administration to make certain
2 recommendations regarding certain insurance coverage; requiring the Maryland
3 Health Care Commission to examine certain research findings and make a
4 certain report to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly
5 on or before a certain date; repealing the termination date for provisions of law
6 that require the Department to conduct certain outreach and public awareness
7 campaigns and make certain reports regarding the hepatitis C virus; and
8 generally relating to public awareness, treatment, and outreach relating to the
9 hepatitis B and hepatitis C viruses.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 18–1001
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
16 Article – Health – General
17 Section 18–1002
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
21 Chapter 457 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2006, as amended by
22 Chapter 125 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2009
23 Section 4

24 Preamble

25 WHEREAS, There are approximately 5,300,000 individuals with hepatitis B,
26 hepatitis C, or both living in the United States; and

27 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B and hepatitis C are viral infections that attack the
28 liver and can cause both acute and chronic disease; and

29 WHEREAS, One in 20 Americans has been infected with hepatitis B; and

30 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control has recognized hepatitis B as the
31 deadliest vaccine-preventable disease; and

32 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is three to four times more prevalent than human
33 immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and is much more infectious than HIV; and

34 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B and hepatitis C disproportionately affect minority
35 populations, including African Americans, Hispanics, American Indian/Native
36 Americans as well as Asian and Pacific Islanders; and

1 WHEREAS, The annual health care costs attributable to hepatitis B are
2 estimated to be approximately \$2,000 per infected individual and the annual health
3 care costs attributable to treating hepatitis C with protease inhibitors are
4 approximately \$30,000 per infected individual; and

5 WHEREAS, Direct antibodies treatment of hepatitis C, a newer treatment, is
6 associated with a 91% to 94% cure rate; and

7 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B and hepatitis C patients who progress to end-stage
8 liver disease may require treatments costing between \$30,980 and \$110,576 per
9 hospital admission, and hepatitis B and hepatitis C patients who are diagnosed too
10 late may require a liver transplant costing at least \$314,000; and

11 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control has revised its vaccine
12 recommendations to include vaccination at birth, vaccination of all previously
13 unvaccinated children and adolescents, and vaccination of previously unvaccinated
14 adults at risk for hepatitis B infection in an effort to eliminate hepatitis B from the
15 United States; and

16 WHEREAS, There is no vaccination for hepatitis C; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the Institute of Medicine, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
18 infections cause substantial morbidity and mortality despite being preventable and
19 treatable; now, therefore,

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Health – General**

23 18–1001.

24 As funds are available, the Department shall:

25 (1) Conduct a needs assessment to determine the incidence of the
26 **HEPATITIS B VIRUS AND** hepatitis C virus in the State;

27 (2) Initiate a statewide public awareness campaign targeting
28 vulnerable populations and health care providers in the State to urge **HEPATITIS B**
29 **VIRUS AND** hepatitis C virus education and testing;

30 (3) Coordinate with other units of State government, including the
31 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Veterans'
32 Administration, to activate a hepatitis C virus plan for the education, testing, and
33 treatment of the populations within the jurisdiction of the units;

1 (4) Solicit funding from the private sector and units of federal, state,
2 and local government for **HEPATITIS B VIRUS AND** hepatitis C virus outreach;

3 (5) Provide funding for hepatitis C virus pilot programs, which may
4 include programs in methadone clinics or programs for the Department of Correctional
5 Services population;

6 (6) Review and recommend initiatives to promote advocacy, education,
7 physician outreach, and awareness of the **HEPATITIS B VIRUS AND** hepatitis C virus;

8 (7) Assess the feasibility of creating a Hepatitis C Virus
9 Administration in the Department and examine methods to maximize existing
10 resources to raise awareness of the hepatitis virus; [and]

11 (8) Implement the 2005 Report of the Hepatitis C Advisory Council;

12 **(9) COORDINATE WITH THE MARYLAND OFFICE OF MINORITY**
13 **HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES TO DEVELOP ~~AND ACTIVATE~~ A HEPATITIS B**
14 **VIRUS PLAN AND A HEPATITIS C VIRUS PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION, TESTING,**
15 **AND TREATMENT OF HIGH RISK POPULATIONS AND ETHNIC AND RACIAL**
16 **POPULATIONS WHO ARE AFFECTED DISPROPORTIONATELY BY THE HEPATITIS B**
17 **AND HEPATITIS C VIRUSES, INCLUDING THE ASIAN POPULATION AND AFRICAN**
18 **IMMIGRANTS;**

19 **(10) DEVELOP A PLAN TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY ~~AND~~**
20 **~~PROVISION~~ OF HEPATITIS B VIRUS VACCINATIONS IN THE STATE, IN**
21 **ACCORDANCE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE**
22 **CONTROL AND PREVENTION;**

23 **(11) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE AWARENESS**
24 **AND THE AFFORDABILITY OF MEDICATIONS FOR TREATING THE HEPATITIS C**
25 **VIRUS; AND**

26 **(12) COLLABORATE WITH THE MARYLAND INSURANCE**
27 **ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING INSURANCE**
28 **COVERAGE FOR ~~COMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH MEDICATIONS USED FOR~~**
29 **THE TREATMENT OF THE HEPATITIS C VIRUS.**

30 18-1002.

31 On or before December 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, the Department shall
32 report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
33 Article, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and
34 the House Health and Government Operations Committee on the activities of the
35 Department in implementing § 18-1001 of this subtitle.

